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State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY

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MAY 29 1992

DIVISION OF
OIL GAS & MINING

May 20, 1992

Mr. Dave Hodson, Manager
Barney's Canyon Mine
P. O. Box 311
Bingham Canyon, UT 84006-0311

RE: Stockpiled Sulfide Ore

Dear Mr. Hudson:

During a recent inspection on March 12, 1992, Mack Croft and Lyle Stott, of the Division of Water Quality, observed a large rockpile at the mine site. On inquiry, Barney's Canyon employees stated it was believed the pile was gold bearing sulfide material being stored for later use. Inquiries to DOGM yielded similar answers and a reply that this operation was not in the mining plan.

Stockpiling of sulfide ore is not part of the construction permit. Sulfide ore was discussed during the permitting phase and item 19 of the Division's April 5, 1988 letter requested information regarding handling of sulfide rock. Barney's Canyon reply of July 9, 1988 stated that all sulfide material would be mixed and covered with oxidized waste and soil. Item 11 of the construction permit issued March 24, 1989 states that the heap leach pads are authorized for the leaching of oxidized ores only. We realize that sulfide ore cannot be easily leached with cyanide on pads.

If Barney's Canyon is stockpiling uncovered sulfide ore on site, it is not in compliance with the construction permit. We are requesting Barney's Canyon to devise a management plan for disposal for all exposed unoxidized sulfide rock at the facility, for submittal to the Division by July 1, 1992 (including descriptions of existing rock piles). The Division is concerned about

Mr. Dave Hudson, Manager

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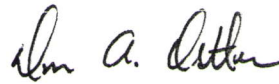
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uncovered sulfide material, because sulfide weathers rapidly and the resulting sulfate percolates quickly to the water table.

If you have any questions, please call Mack Croft at 538-6146.

Sincerely,

Utah Water Quality Board



Don A. Ostler, P.E.
Executive Secretary

DAO:MGC:dee

cc: Salt Lake City / County Health Department
✓ Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining, Dept. of Natural Resources

Q:BARNEYSC.LTR
FILE:BARNEY'S CANYON